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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/397,910	09/17/1999	BRAD W. JOHNSON	720.287	9388

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, BINH AN DUC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/397,910

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Examiner

Binh-An D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed in Paper No. 5, December 18, 2001 has been received. According to the Amendment, claim 9 has been amended. Currently, claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Acknowledgment has been made.
2. The drawings are objected to because the illustrations are unclear due to bad photocopies and rough-draft sketches. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: the connection and/or relationship between step (A) and the rest of other steps in claim 9.
5. Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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In claim 25, line 6, the recited term "the video displays" lacks antecedent basis.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 15, 16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seelig et al. (5,560,603).

Seelig et al. teaches a gaming device comprising: at least one video display being adapted to display a video presentation; a video display controller in communication with the video display, the video display controller being adapted to communicate with other video display controller; a game controller, the game controller being adapted to operate a wagering game; a game device controller in communication with the video display controller and the game controller; the game device controller

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being adapted to initiate a multi-screen presentation (Fig. 3) (4:55-5:14); the game device controller adapted to select a video presentation; the game display being adapted to display information relevant to a wagering game; the game display is further adapted to play a portion of a multi-screen presentation (Fig.3). See also columns 1-5 and Figs. 1-3.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Olsen (6,146,273).

Olsen teaches a video gaming device and method for displaying multi-screen presentations comprising: a plurality of gaming devices (G), each gaming device being adapted to allow a player to play a wagering game, each gaming device being adapted to select a multi-screen presentation and transmit a request for a multi-screen presentation (Fig. 8); a plurality of video displays (video display of gaming machines G or segments 840 of display 830), each video display being adapted to display a video presentation, the video displays being positioned in close relative proximity to allow a video presentation to be displayed using the plurality of video displays, wherein the video presentation appears to be an integrated, multi-screen presentation (video display

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830 with plurality of segments 840); the game device controller initiates a multi-screen presentation upon detecting a bonus event (21:14-25); a plurality of video displays controllers (video display controllers of gaming machines G) communicating with gaming device and video displays; master video display controller (Fig. 8); controller is adapted to select a multi-screen video presentation from a plurality of different presentations; game device controller is adapted to select a bonus award and a multi-screen video presentation based on the output of a random number generator (21:5-66); a wagering device (G). See Figs. 1-16 and columns 1-31. Regarding the limitations of video presentation comprising a horse race (claim 21), a game board (claim 22), and a fisherman (claim 23), these limitations are design choices.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the video gaming device and method for displaying multi-screen presentations with a bonus event, as taught by Olsen, to come up with a more attractive video game wagering device with various multi-screen presentations.

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sitrick teaches a video game network.

Nadan et al. teaches multiple screen digital video display.

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Tatsumi et al. teaches method and apparatus for displaying a unified picture on CRT screens of multiple displaying devices.

Suga et al. teaches a multiple display system.

Ho teaches lattice elimination assembly for a television wall.

Tashiro et al. '438 teaches multi-player type video game playing system.

Langlais et al. teaches method and device for training in the driving of vehicles.

Suzuki teaches simulated visual display system for a game device.

Someya et al. teaches multi-screen display apparatus.

Kuno et al. teaches portable display device with at least two display screens controllable collectively or separately.

Takemoto et al. teaches display system at a game machine island.

Seelig et al. '998, '400, and '544 teach combined slot machines and racing games.

Drapeau teaches video-wall viewing-angle enhancement system.

Markowicz et al. teaches wagering game of chance.

Ong teaches panel display of multiple display units for multiple signal sources.

Olsen '043 and '275 teach controller-based progressive jackpot linked gaming system, and progressive jackpot game with guaranteed winner, respectively.

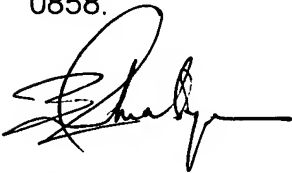
McGowan teaches method and apparatus for phase-locking a plurality of display devices and multi-level driver for use therewith.

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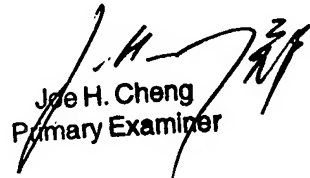
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5713. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 703-308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3580 for regular communications and 703-308-7768 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



BN



Joe H. Cheng
Primary Examiner